

REMARKS

Prior to entry of this paper, Claims 1-20 were pending. Claims 1-20 were rejected. In this paper, Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 10, 11, 13, 14, 17, and 18 are amended. No claims are cancelled; and or added. Claims 1-20 are currently pending. No new matter is added by way of this amendment. For at least the following reasons, Applicants' attorney respectfully submits that each of the presently pending claims is in condition for allowance.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 10, 11, 13, 14 and 17-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Burton et al., U.S Patent No. 6,947,991 (hereinafter "Burton"). Applicants' attorney respectfully traverses.

Amended independent Claim 1 recites, *inter alia*:

automatically detecting attachment of a shared resource device to a server;
automatically querying if the shared resource device is associated with a
share indicator stored at the shared resource device;
(Emphasis added.)

Burton does not teach or suggest "automatically detecting attachment of a shared resource device to a server," as recited in amended Claim 1. Burton is generally directed to "a method and system to manipulate network objects by using Internet authoring, collaboration and versioning tools." (Abstract.) Burton discloses, in Figure 1, a system including servers 10 and 28, a workstation 16, and a storage device 26 communicating through Internet 14, where the system components are shown as already attached. Burton does not disclose detection of the attachment of a share resource. Burton discloses "referring to the mapped drive web folders 37, 38, if the network administrator set up the mapped network drives so that they [are] normally visible at the client ..." (col. 4, lines 31-33; emphasis added.) Thus, Burton does not disclose how the network drives are detected and/or mapped, nor does Burton disclose detecting the attachment of such drives. Burton clearly indicates that any device that is attached to the network is either pre-existing or it is

configured by the network administrator. This is clearly in contrast to automatically detecting attachment of a device to the server.

Additionally, Burton does not teach or suggest “automatically querying if the shared resource device is associated with a share indicator stored at the shared resource device,” as recited in amended Claim 1. Burton discloses an XML file that is used to manage the properties of a user’s files for sharing with other users for purposes of collaboration. (Col. 5, lines 36-44; col. 5, line 57 to col. 6, line 4; Col. 7, lines 5-21.) The XML file is not a shared device, to be automatically detected upon being attached to a server (“detecting attachment of”). Accordingly, any share indication, such as access permission that may be stored in the XML file is not the same as a shared indicator stored at the shared resource device. Because XML files are different from shared devices, amended Claim 1 is submitted to be allowable for at least the reasons discussed above.

Claims 2, 4, and 5 depend from Claim 1 and are submitted to be allowable for at least the same reasons discussed above with respect to Claim 1.

Amended independent Claim 7 recites substantially similar features as Claim 1 and is submitted to be allowable for at least the same reasons discussed above with respect to Claim 1.

Claims 8, 10, and 11 depend from Claim 7 and are submitted to be allowable for at least the same reasons discussed above with respect to Claim 7.

Amended independent Claim 13 recites, inter alia:

a memory coupled to the processor to store a shared resource device table to identify share allocation of shared devices coupled to the system, wherein if an unknown storage free device is coupled to the system, the processor automatically creates a share file in the shared resource device table that enables identification and automatically allocates sharing of the unknown storage free device. (Emphasis added.)

Burton does not teach or suggest “if an unknown storage free device is coupled to the system, the processor automatically creates a share file in the shared resource device table that enables identification,” as recited in amended Claim 13. As discussed above with respect to amended Claim 1, Burton discloses browsing for a device, such as a printer, which is already connected and configured in the system (for example, see col. 3, lines 3-4.) Furthermore Burton discloses that “screen 30 also shows how easy it would be to drag and drop the object Dan on a

folder, file or printer object, to assign Dan new NDS rights to that object." (Col. 4, lines 12-14; Fig. 2; emphasis added.) Fig. 2 of Burton clearly shows that objects to which a user Dan may be granted access, such as network drives 37 and 38, are known, identified, and listed in the directory tree. This is not the same as automatically creating a share file in the shared resource device table for an unknown storage free device to enable identification. Granting permission to a user to access a known and identified object is not the same as identifying an unknown object. Therefore, Claim 13 is submitted to be allowable for at least these reasons.

Claims 14, 17, and 18 depend from Claim 13 and are submitted to be allowable for at least the same reasons discussed above with respect to Claim 13.

Independent Claim 19 recites, in relevant portions, substantially similar features as Claims 1 and 13 and is submitted to be allowable for at least the same reasons discussed above with respect to Claims 1 and 13.

Specifically, independent Claim 19 recites, *inter alia*:

detecting attachment of a device to the server;
determining if the device is one of the plurality of known devices;
applying a share allocation from the descriptor table upon attachment if the device is one of the plurality of known devices; and
if the device is determined to be an unknown device, automatically creating a share indicator on the unknown device and a corresponding share entry in the descriptor table that enables identification and automatically allocating sharing of the unknown device. (Emphasis added.)

As discussed above with respect to Claims 1 and 13, Burton neither discloses detecting attachment of a device to a server, nor discloses identification of an unknown device. Therefore, Claim 19 is submitted to be allowable for at least these reasons.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 3, 6, 9, 12 and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Burton in view of Blumenau et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,665,714 (hereinafter "Blumenau-2"). Applicants' attorney respectfully traverses.

Claims 3 and 6, Claims 9 and 12, and Claim 15 depend from Claims 1, 7, and 13, respectively, and are submitted to be allowable for at least the same reasons discussed above with respect to Claims 1, 7, and 13. In addition, Blumenau-2 fails to disclose the teachings missing from Burton. Blumenau-2 discloses that “[g]enerally, as each *device enters the network* it queries the network to *identify the other devices* coupled to the network.” (Col. 6, lines 62-64; emphasis added.) Identification of an already attached device (i.e., other devices) by a newly attached device (i.e., device entering network) is not the same as automatically detecting attachment of a shared resource device, as recited in Claim 1. Additionally, a storage device is not the same as an unknown storage-free device, as recited in Claim 13. Therefore, Claims 3, 6, 9, 12, and 15 are submitted to be allowable for at least these reasons, over the combination of the cited prior art references.

Claims 16 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Burton in view of Fisher, U.S. Patent No. 6,513,101 (hereinafter “Fisher”). Applicants’ attorney respectfully traverses.

Claims 16 and 20 depend from Claims 13 and 19, respectively, and are submitted to be allowable for at least the same reasons discussed above with respect to Claims 13 and 19. Fisher fails to supply the teachings from Burton. Fisher is directed to “a data storage library ... for expiring logical volumes in response to expiration selection from a host” (Abstract.) Fisher does not disclose the identification of an unknown storage-free device, or detecting attachment of a device to a server, as recited in Claims 13 and 19, respectively. Therefore Claims 16 and 20 are submitted to be allowable for at least these reasons, over the combination of the cited prior art references.

CONCLUSION

It is respectfully submitted that each of the presently pending claims (Claims 1-20) is in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is requested. Examiner is invited to contact the Applicants’ representative at the below-listed telephone number if it is believed that the prosecution of this application may be assisted thereby. Although only certain arguments regarding


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patentability are set forth herein, there may be other arguments and reasons why the claimed invention is patentable. Applicant reserves the right to raise these arguments in the future.

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Respectfully submitted,

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